



SUPERFUND COMMUNITY UPDATE

Liberty Industrial Finishing Superfund Site

Farmingdale, New York

September 2004

F O R M O R E INFORMATION...

Public Availability Session

Tuesday, September 14, 2004 at 7:00PM to be held at the Farmingdale Public Library, 116 Merritt Road, Farmingdale, NY. The community will hear about the progress and upcoming cleanup activities for the site.

Public Participation

Any questions regarding cleanup activities at the Site, contact Lorenzo Thantu, Remedial Project Manager, at (212) 637-4240, or Cecilia Echols, Community Involvement Coordinator, at (212) 637-3678 or 1-800- 346- 5009.

Regional Public Liaison

EPA Region 2 has designated a Regional Public Liaison for you to call, should you have concerns or complaints about the Superfund program. Please call (888) 283-7626.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

A representative of ATSDR is available to answer health-related questions. Please call Arthur Block, ATSDR Senior Regional Representative, at (212) 637-4307.

Superfund

For information on the Superfund process, please visit EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/superfund

Information Repository

Site related documents can be reviewed at the Farmingdale Public Library, 116 Merritt Road, Farmingdale, NY 11735

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun the implementation of remedial design and remedial action activities, associated with the comprehensive long-term remedy selected in the March 2002 Record of Decision (ROD) at the Liberty Industrial Finishing Superfund site (the Site).

The ROD selected a primary remedial action consisting of excavation and off-Site disposal of 73,100 cubic yards of contaminated soils, removal of contaminated aqueous and/or solid materials from underground storage tanks and other subsurface features, construction and operation of a conventional pump-and-treat system to address on-Site and off-Site groundwater contaminated from prior industrial operations at the Site (designated as Plume A), and excavation and off-Site disposal of 2,600 cubic yards of contaminated pond sediments at the Massapequa Preserve which, EPA has estimated, will cost nearly \$32-million. The ROD also selected a separate action to remediate groundwater contamination which originates upgradient of the Site (designated as Plume B) and which EPA estimated to cost more than \$2 million.

In September 2003 EPA signed a Consent Judgment with potentially responsible parties (PRPs) requiring that they implement the primary remedial action at the Site. The United States lodged the Consent Judgment in federal court in March 2004, at which time the PRPs commenced implementation of the remedial design. The Consent Judgment became final and effective on August 27, 2004 when the court granted the motion of the United States seeking its entry. Remedial design is expected to be completed by the Spring of 2006. Upon completion of the remedial design phase the remedial action phase would commence. EPA estimates that the soil (including subsurface features) and Massapequa Creek remediation components of the remedy would be completed by the Summer of 2007, and that the construction of the comprehensive groundwater treatment system would also be completed by the Summer of 2007. The groundwater treatment system would then operate for perhaps 20 years or more, in order to remediate the groundwater.

As called for in the ROD, EPA is presently conducting studies to further characterize Plume B and to seek to identify its source so as to optimize treatment of Plume B and its source, and to determine if EPA can identify a responsible party to take over the implementation of the Plume B remedial action.

Site Description

The Liberty Industrial Finishing Superfund site includes a 30-acre property located at 55 Motor Avenue in the Village of Farmingdale, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York that had been used for airplane parts manufacturing and associated metal finishing activities during World War II and the Korean War. In the late 1950's, the Site was converted to an industrial park and was used for a variety of industrial operations including metal plating and finishing and fiberglass product manufacturing. Since the 1980's, the Site has been used for light manufacturing and warehousing. The groundwater plume designated as Plume A, is contaminated with organic and inorganic substances, underlies the 30-acre former industrial area and extends beneath the Site to approximately one mile to the south. Portions of the Massapequa Preserve, a nature preserve located about one-half mile to the south, are also contaminated from the past activities and will be addressed as part of the primary remedial action. A separate plume of organic contamination, designated as Plume B, originates to the north of the Liberty site and migrates in a southerly direction before commingling with a portion of Plume A.

Site History

Site investigation and cleanup activities were initially directed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) through the 1980's.

In 1986, the site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL), a published list of hazardous waste sites in the country that are eligible for extensive, long-term cleanup action under the Superfund program.

In 1990, EPA assumed the role of the lead governmental agency for environmental investigation and remediation of the Liberty site. EPA performed or provided oversight for the environmental investigations at the Site and also oversaw several partial cleanup actions at the Site starting in 1990.

Superfund Cleanup Activities

Several cleanup actions have been undertaken at the Liberty site. In 1978 and 1987 under administrative orders issued by the NYSDEC, the PRPs removed contaminated soil and sludge from industrial waste disposal basins.

In 1994, pursuant to an order issued by EPA and under EPA oversight, several PRPs for the Liberty site performed a cleanup action which removed soils contaminated with PCBs and which eliminated the current human health risks posed by the Liberty site.

In 1998, EPA issued an order to the PRPs requiring them to

implement an interim groundwater remedy. The objective of that cleanup action was to prevent contaminated groundwater from migrating beyond the boundary of the Liberty property until the comprehensive soil and groundwater remedy could be implemented. Although various operational problems initially prevented the interim groundwater treatment system from continuous operation and effective treatment of groundwater contamination, in January 2002, EPA directed the PRPs to begin the process of converting the on-Site system into a conventional pump and treat system. This conversion was completed in June 2004, since which time the existing on-Site groundwater remediation system has been operating at its full design capacity in effectively treating both organic and inorganic contamination.

In late 1999, the owners of the Liberty site removed approximately 1.5 million pounds of PCB-contaminated shredded auto-fluff that had been stored at the Liberty site, as required by an EPA order issued pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

In March 2002, EPA issued another cleanup order to the owners of the Liberty site requiring them to address below ground features in a number of World War II-era buildings on a ten-acre portion of the Liberty site. These features include sumps, vaults, drains, pipes, underground leaching chambers, underground storage tanks as well as a sanitary leaching field. The order also required the property owners to remove a contaminated mound of soil located on the western portion of the Site.

Also in March 2002, EPA issued a Record of Decision documenting the selection of a \$34-million comprehensive remedial action.

In March 2003, three soil mounds were addressed, removed and disposed of off-site by the PRP's. Work addressing the underground features began in July of 2004 and is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2005.

In September 2003, EPA signed a Consent Judgment with all of the PRPs for the Site requiring them to implement the primary remedial action at the Site. As discussed above, the Consent Judgment became effective on August 27, 2004 when it was entered in federal court. The PRPs are performing the remedial design under the Consent Judgment.

